

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01660 011446Z

60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

SSM-03 /073 W

----- 065695

R 011415Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8516

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1660

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, IS, JO

SUBJECT: ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY NEAR BEIT JALA AND NABLUS

REFS: JERUSALEM 1625 AND PREVIOUS

1. SEVERAL HUNDRED DUNMAS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND NEAR THE VALLAGE OF TALLUZA (ABOUT 7 KM NORTH OF NABLUS) HAVE BEEN SEQUESTERED BY MILGOV, ACCORDING TO MEDAI REPORTS. APPARENTLY, THE ISRAELIS INTEND TO USE IT TO EXPAND AN ARMY CAMP LOCATED THERE. ACCORDING TO AL QUDS, THE LAND IS OWNED BY LOCAL ARABS WHO DEPEND UPON IT FOR THEIR LIVELIHOODS AND WHO HAVE REFUSED TO RENT OR SELL TO THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES.

2. BEIT JALA'S MAYOR HAS SENT CONGEN A COPY OF HIS NOV 27 LETTER TO UNSG WALDHEIM PROTESTING ISRAELI CONSTRUCTION ON JEBEL RAS THE PEAK OF THE HILL UPON WHICH THE TOWN IS BUILT. CONGEN OFFICER DEC 1 VERIFIED THAT THREE STRUCTURES, EACH ABOUT THE SIZE OF A MODEST HOUSE, WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION. IN ADDITION, OTHER

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PAGE 02 JERUSA 01660 011446Z

PARTS OF THE SITE HAVE BEEN SURVEYED - POSSIBLY AS A PRELUDE TO

DEVELOPMENT. THE MAYOR, WHOSE ATTEMPT TO HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING REPORTED IN REFTEL TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WAS BLOCKED BY ISRAELI AUTHORITIES SAID HE WILL CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO PUBLICIZE THE ISRAELI ENCROACHMENT, FIND SOME RELIEF FOR THE TWO FAMILIES LIVING WITHIN THE PERIMETER OF THE ENCLOSED AREA AND ENCOURAGE ARABS TO BUILD IN THE ADJACENT AREAS.

3. COMMENT: IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO CONCLUDE THAT THE GOI IS PLANNING A FULL-SCALE SETTLEMENT ON JEBEL RAS FROM THE CONSTRUCTION NOW IN EVIDENCE. HOWEVER, ANY CONSTRUCTION INDICATES THAT THE SEQUESTRATION OF LAND ON JEBEL RAS IS NOT TEMPORARY, BUT RATHER THAT THE ISRAELIS INTEND A LONG-TERM, EXPANDED PRESENCE ON THIS STRATEGIC SITE.
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